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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,798	12/28/2005	Stefan Fullgraf	03100238AA	9502

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EXAMINER

CULLER, JILL E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/538,798	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FULLGRAF ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jill E. Culler	<b>Art Unit</b> 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-5 and 9-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20050613</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: The capitalization and punctuation of the claim is inappropriate. A claim must consist of only one sentence. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,635,550 to Brands et al.

With respect to claim 1, Brands et al. teaches a printing blanket assembly, 22, for a printing blanket cylinder, 16, of a rotary press, having a dimensionally stable carrier plate, 28, with two ends, 30, 31, of which one forms a leading end and the other forms a trailing end with respect to the rotation of the printing blanket cylinder, and which can be fixed to the printing blanket cylinder by turned-over limbs that are free of the printing blanket, and having a printing blanket, 40, fixed to the outside of the carrier plate, 28, and having a leading end 42, and a trailing end, 43, characterized in that both ends of the printing blanket project beyond the turned-over edge of the associated limb of the carrier plate and in that in each case a supporting element, 37, for supporting the

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projection is arranged between the turned-over edge and the inner side of the printing blanket. See column 3, line 8 - column 4, line 48 and Fig. 2.

With respect to claim 2, Brands et al. teaches that the supporting elements fill up the interspaces between the turned-over edge and the projection of the printing blanket. See column 3, lines 44-48 and Fig. 2.

With respect to claim 3, Brands et al. teaches that the supporting elements are formed from a vulcanized rubber compound or a cured plastic compound. See column 3, lines 46-50.

With respect to claims 6-7, Brands et al. teaches that the mutually facing side surfaces of the printing blanket 42, 43, at the mutually opposite ends are designed to have shapes complementary to each other following the mounting of the printing assembly on the printing blanket cylinder and to virtually or just rest on each other. See column 4, lines 43-54 and Fig. 2. It should be noted that claim 7 is drawn to the process of making the printing blanket rather than the structure and therefore is rejected with claim 6 as it adds no additional structure to the apparatus.

With respect to claim 8, Brands et al. teaches a method for producing a printing blanket assembly characterized by the following method steps: the material, 40, of the printing blanket is applied to the carrier plate, 28, ends of the carrier plate, 30, 31, that are free of the printing blanket are turned over at the edge in order to form the limbs in such a way that the ends, 42, 43, of the printing blanket project beyond the turned-over edges, in each case a supporting element, 37, is introduced into the interspaces

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between printing blanket and carrier plate formed by the turned-over edges. See column 3, line 8 - column 4, line 48 and Fig. 2.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 4-5 and 9-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

With respect to claim 4, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a printing blanket assembly as claimed, particularly including mutually facing side surfaces of two mutually facing supporting elements.

With respect to claim 9, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method for producing a printing blanket assembly as claimed particularly including that before or after the printing blanket is fixed to a carrier plate the supporting material is severed, forming two supporting elements.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 2,714,852 to Stempel, U.S. Patent No. 4,515,375 to Bleckmann et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,742,769 to Zeller, U.S. Patent No. 5,178,068 to

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Junghans et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,669,306 to Puschnerat and U.S. Patent NO. 6,073,558 to Jones each teach an apparatus having apparent similarities to the claimed subject matter.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

*Jill E. Culler*  
Patent Examiner